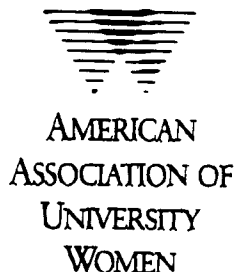


March 22, 2001



The Honorable John D. Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), we would like to express our support for the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001 (HR 526/S 283). AAUW believes that HR 526/S 283 is meaningful managed care reform that will establish enforceable federal standards to assure a minimum level of quality and consumer protections for women and all Americans covered by private insurance.

AAUW believes that HR 526/S 283 will improve access to health care services for women and their families by:

- providing coverage for the 161 million privately insured Americans;
- guaranteeing that patients can have a health plan's decision to deny care reviewed by an independent medical expert so that managed care plans can be held accountable when their decisions to withhold or limit care result in injury or death;
- ensuring that women have direct access to ob-gyn services from the participating health care professional of their choice;
- ensuring access to specialists, including, when appropriate, specialists outside a plan's network; and
- ensuring access to clinical trials for new treatment options that may save lives.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. Please contact Nancy Zirkin, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, at 202/785-7720, or Jamie Pueschel, Government Relations Manager, at 202/785-7730, if you would like to discuss this or any other issue important to AAUW.

Sincerely,



Sandy Bernard
President



Jacqueline Woods
Executive Director

cc: President George W. Bush